



Cumorah's Southern Messenger

Registered at the G.P.O.
as a Newspaper.

Christmas 1966

CUMORAH'S

SOUTHERN MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 1966

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Special Thanks to: **The Instructor**

Subscription Rates: 75 cents per year **R1.00** overseas (**\$1.50**)

The CSM is a monthly publication of **The Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

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ADDRESS CHANGES**

Volume 41

Number 12

CHRIST — A MIRACLE IN HIMSELF

THE season of Christmas is one of thoughtfulness for others. It tempers our feelings as we contemplate the mission and life of Jesus of Nazareth. Long before His life in mortality the Gospel was understood by God's people. Yes, even in the pre-mortal life the entire plan for peace on earth was taught by our Lord, the Redeemer of mankind.

A few testimonies of the prophets will give us a glimpse of the mission of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords.

Joseph knew of these truths when he blessed his sons. To Judah he said, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen 49:10)

Isaiah recorded this great day in these words: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) And further: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this." (Isa. 9:6, 7).

The fulfillment of these prophecies was partly realized at the time of the birth of the Lord. The story is so beautifully told in Luke, chapter 2 that it should be read in every home on Christmas Day.

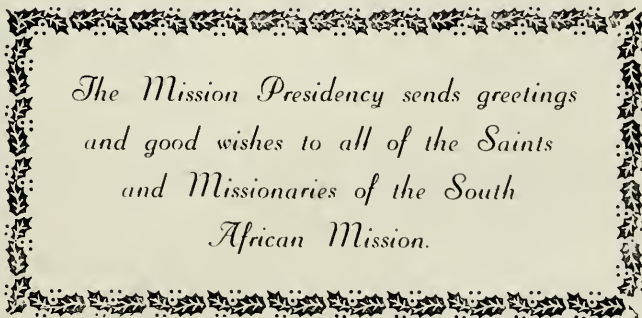
A testimony of the divine mission of Jesus Christ is basic to man's hope for peace in this troubled world, for it is only through Him that we can find lasting peace. There is no myth about His birth, life and mission.

One of our church leaders has stated that Jesus is the miracle of all the centuries, which have come and gone since His advent upon the earth — there is no deviation from His announced doctrine of love and good will — love God and love your fellowmen and do good to those who despitely use you.

May we accept the life and Mission of Jesus without reservation and light will then lead us to peace and good will, is our testimony.

We extend kindest seasons greetings.

President and Sister Snow



The Prophet and the Saviour

NO one knows whether there was divine significance in the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith coming so closely before Christmas.

Yet in the minds of those who love him as a servant of Jesus Christ there is a meaning, for Joseph was His prophet, the forerunner of His Second Advent.

There was much meaning in the coming of John the Baptist before the way of the Lord in the meridian of time. John was His forerunner in very deed. He cried out, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," preparing the minds of the people for the work of the Saviour. He told his followers that he was not the Christ, nor was he even worthy to untie His shoes, but nevertheless John was the first mortal witness of the Saviour.

It was he who announced: "Behold the Lamb of God" before the idea had occurred to anyone else. It had been revealed to him. He had seen the promised sign at His baptism: On whomsoever he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove — that was the Christ.

But even as John was his forerunner in that day, so was Joseph Smith the forerunner of the Second Advent.

Both men had difficult tasks. Both were severely persecuted and fell as martyrs to the cause. Both were declared to be among the greatest of all servants of God. The Saviour called John the Baptist, "the greatest prophet born of woman." Of Joseph it was said: "He has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it."

John and Joseph became qualified witnesses of the Saviour. John received the witness at Christ's baptism, and heard the voice of the Father in Heaven declaring "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

He directed his own disciples to join with Christ. He knew that as Jesus grew in power and public acceptance, he, the forerunner, must diminish. When the introduction of the Master was completed, and the Saviour carried on His own full ministry, there was no longer a place for a forerunner. The task was finished.

Joseph Smith also became well acquainted with the Saviour. He saw the Lord at the side of the Father in the First Vision. He heard the words: "This is my Beloved Son."

He saw the face and figure of the Son of God, not alone on this occasion, but on others also, and gave a description of Him. He bore testimony that Jesus is the Creator of the worlds, and the Author of our Salvation.

In preparation for the Second Coming of the Master, a great work was required. The Gospel must be restored, the Church re-established: the priesthood must again minister among men. Prophets must be called to receive divine revelation in modern times. Apostles must be appointed to carry on the new ministry.

All of this was given into the hands of the modern forerunner of the Lord. But when his work was done, as with John, the forerunner would take his immortal place in history with the other prophets of God.

This was the lot of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was born to this destiny, foreordained to the work. He carried it on humbly and effectively, but under the constant direction of heaven.

When his part was over, he withdrew from the stage, even as did John.

Who can measure the greatness of John the Baptist? Who can tell the stature of Joseph Smith?

Who can determine the love Jesus the Christ must have had for them,
(continued at the foot of page 313)

DANCE

Editor's Note: This article is the first in a series of articles on Church Standards presented by the Mission MIA.

CHRISTMAS time is here again and we will all be attending more dances and parties than usual. The world often judges the Church by the actions of its youth and we are expected to live up to our responsibilities as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by being kind, clean, thoughtful, refined, dignified and obedient.

President David O. McKay out of his love and concern for the well-being of the youth of the Church has made the following statements:

"Many of the young people of our Church do not have any evil intentions in dancing current fad dances. However, we think the test of a proper dance is not whether the dancers have evil intentions, but whether the dance is of dignity and propriety that, even to an onlooker, it suggests nothing but style and good grace. After all, young men and women of our Church should shun even the appearance of evil, and that is why we would very much prefer that you avoid the current trend of what, to many of us, appears to be vulgar dancing. There are too many fine things in this world for the young people to engage in without resorting to dances that are questionable."¹

Here are several suggestions that will help us to follow the counsel of our Prophet.

"1. **GOOD POSTURE** — If one concentrates on good dance posture, many dances can be dances in a manner which will meet LDS standards. Some examples of these dances are the waltz, fox trot, tango, rumba, cha-cha, samba, swing, and most of the folk dances."

"2. **DANCE POSITIONS** — When dancing, young people should avoid crouching, slumping over, trying to do a back bend, or having too close a body contact.

"3. **BODY MOVEMENTS** — Members of the Church should be good dancers and not contortionists. Extreme body movements — such as hip and shoulder shaking, body jerking, etc. — should be avoided, and emphasis should be placed on smooth styling and clever footwork.

"4. **THE TYPE OF MUSIC** — The kind of music that is played has a definite effect upon the actions of those participating in dance. With this in mind, those who are called to serve on a dance committee should always review the music suggested for use during the dance. This decision should never be left to a disc jockey or others who may not be familiar with LDS standards"²

Youth are on their honour to live all of the church standards. Young people can have fun while being considerate and loyal to the Church and making its standards an integral, happy part of their lives.

Let's give it a try!

¹For the Strength of Youth (Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1966) pp. 14-15.

²Ibid., p. 13.

THE PROPHET AND THE SAVIOUR (Continued from page 312)

each one in his turn? Who can tell what their reward will be?

But neither man thought in terms of reward. Both had eyes single to the glory and work of God. They lived great, and they died great in the eyes of God and His people, and like most of the Lord's anointed in ancient times, sealed their mission and their work with their own blood.

Both forerunners are now dead. Both affirmed the divinity of the Saviour, Jesus Christ and their testimony is now in full force.

My Dear Son Michael

By Elder Milton R. Hunter of the First Council of the Seventy

My dear Son Michael:

With the hope that I might say something, my son, that will help you to live a more complete and joyful life and that someday you will receive a blessed exaltation in the presence of our Lord, I am writing you this letter.

Deep in the heart of every human being is a strong desire to experience joy day by day. In fact, Father Lehi claimed that the achievement of a life of joy was the principal purpose of our existence. He said: "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." (2 Nephi 2:25).

In order that you might live a life filled with joy, that you might be happy now, in the future, and forever, it is necessary that you understand who you are and the course that you must follow in order to attain a fulness of joy in this life and in the world to come.

You are a son of God, literally and actually a child of an Eternal Father in heaven. You are endowed with the spiritual attributes of godliness that if properly cultivated will result eventually in your returning to the presence of that Divine Being and receiving eternal life. Regarding this important truth, the First Presidency, President Joseph F. Smith and his Counselors, President John R. Winder and Anthon H. Lund, wrote:

"Man is a child of God, formed in the divine image and endowed with divine attributes, and even as the infant son of an earthly father and mother is capable in due time of becoming a man, so the undeveloped offspring of celestial parentage is capable, by experience through ages of aeons, of evolving into a God." (The Improvement Era 13:81).

My son, in the spring of 1820, the greatest event that ever occurred in the United States took place in the Sacred Grove in New York. God our Eternal Father and his Only Begotten Son appeared to a boy just your age — the Prophet Joseph Smith — in response to his prayer regarding which church to join. This marvellous vision was the prelude to a restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Soon thereafter, numerous heavenly beings appeared to the Prophet, revealing the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of as many of the human family as will believe and obey. The true church was established; namely, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints.

In accordance with the predictions of the ancient prophets, this is the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times, the time of the restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:21)

You have the tremendous blessing, my son, of being a member of the true Church of Jesus Christ. This is an inheritance more valuable than all of the wealth in the world.

Seek day by day throughout your life to have sufficient inspiration and wisdom to know what the Lord our Saviour desires you to do; and then work under that divine inspiration to do it at all times to the best of your ability. Jesus put it this way: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

Always select good company with whom to associate. Your companions greatly influence the life that you live. Stay away from places of temptation. If any young man frequents places of evil, eventually he will be ensnared in sin.

In modern revelation, the Lord has commanded: "Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, . . ." (D&C 87:8) Going to church and doing temple work places one in holy places. The Lord thy God commanded: "And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day." (Ibid., 59:9)

Keep your mind and heart clean and pure at all times. The scriptures truthfully declare: "For as . . . (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7) Our thoughts are like seeds planted in a fertile garden. They take root, grow, and eventually mature in full bloom. Thus the very centre of our character-growth is our inner thoughts. Our thoughts precede our actions. They are the underlying forces that shape our destiny. My son, if one could look into your heart when you have nothing in particular to do but to live with your thoughts, one could predict your future happiness and successes or your future heartaches and failures.

It is definitely true that each person is the product of his own individual thinking. Mr. James Allen aptly declared: "Whatever your present environment may be, you will fall, remain, or rise with your thoughts, your visions, or your ideals. You will become as small as your controlling desire, as great as your dominating aspiration." (As A Man Thinketh p., 42)

Thus let me advise: My son, guard your mind and your thinking continually. Do not listen to impure or indecent stories. Never repeat a thought or a story that you would not be proud to tell your mother. Immoral stories are insidious and degrading to one's spiritual growth and sweetness of personality; therefore, remember never to let anything come from your lips that is indecent, suggestive, degrading, or of an immoral nature in any respect. The Saviour declared: "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." (Matt 5:8)

Knowing that we are children of God, the Apostle Paul pointed out that our bodies are very sacred. He said:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

On another occasion, the Apostle Paul made it very clear that each of us will have to answer for his own mistakes, and, on the other hand, each of us will be rewarded for his own good actions. To quote:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:7-8)

Remember this my son, God is no respecter of persons. He will hold you accountable for your sins and reward you for your righteous acts. The writer of Ecclesiastes truthfully declare:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

"For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecc. 12:13-14).

The justice and mercy of God in blessing his children is given plainly in the Doctrine and Covenants as follows.

"There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated."

"And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to the law upon which it is predicated." (D&C 130:20-21)

My son, there was a divine and eternal truth decalred by Alma, that great Nephite prophet and teacher, which I wish would rise in front of your eyes in your mind as a great placard in glowing letters every time temptation comes your way throughout life. I would that every Latter-day Saint boy, girl, man and woman would memorize Alma's divine declaration and that it would flash strongly in their minds on each and every occasion that they are tempted to do wrong. Alma declared: "Behold I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness." (Alma 41:10)

Perhaps a scripture of equal importance to have ringing in your ears is Paul's firm declaration that "... the wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23)

Your Heavenly Father has blessed you, my son, with a healthy body and a keen mind. Certainly He expects you to keep them that way. To help accomplish this, he revealed the Word of Wisdom. It stands to reason that wise boys and wise men will at no time take substances into their bodies which are not good for them. I plead with you to refrain from taking the first smoke, and then tobacco will never be a severe temptation to you. The same truth holds for any other harmful substance that you might be tempted to take into your body. Set your standards high. Be determined that you will never break God's law of health. The achievement of this resolution will bring you joy, peace, and comfort. It will result in your maintaining health in your body and mind; and you will receive "... wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures" (D&C 89:19) one of which treasures is a firm conviction that Jesus is the Christ and the Saviour of the world. Also, obedience to the Word of Wisdom will help you to maintain your body as a pure temple in which the Spirit of God can dwell.

My son, be prayerful. Pray to your heavenly Father every night before you retire to bed. Pray to him every morning before you leave your bedroom. Pray for the sick and afflicted, the poor and needy, the widows and orphans, and all workers of righteousness throughout the world. Pour out your heart in thanksgiving to Him for the numerous blessings that He gives you. Pray to Him for His divine guidance in your schoolwork. He will answer your prayers by enhancing your memory and by giving you strength and wisdom to complete your assignments. He will help you to succeed in your numerous undertakings.

Throughout your life continue to call upon your Heavenly Father for divine guidance in all things that you do. Great men such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln found their supreme strength in times of distress in humble prayer to their Divine Creator. So will your burdens, my son, be made lighter and your heart be filled with serenity and peace as you travel the highway of life if you continue to keep your Eternal Father as your companion, your friend, and your guide. Surely He will take you by the hand and will give you answers to your prayers.

One of the most vital things in your life, if you are to have joy, is for you to learn to work and to love to work. My son, work and work, for herein lies perhaps your greatest joy. I know of nothing that gives more satisfaction to one's heart than to have a job he likes, and to do that job efficiently to the best of his ability. An indescribable peace and satisfaction come into one's heart through work well done. When you stand before the judgement seat of the Lord after leaving this mortal life, be able to report honestly that you always did a full day's work. As you know, one of the two first laws given to Adam and Eve was the commandment to earn their bread by the sweat of their faces. This law we must obey if our lives are pleasing to our Heavenly Father. The following important advice appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune:

"A police chief's advice to teen-agers — Always we hear the plaintive cry of teen-agers:—

"What can we do? Where can we go?

"The answer is . . . go home! Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves, mow the lawn, shovel the walk, wash the car; learn to cook, scrub the floors, repair the sink, build a boat, get a job, help the minister, priest, or rabbi, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army; visit the sick, assist the poor, study your lessons, and then when you are through and not tired . . . read a good book."

My son, if you are to live a life filled with joy and happiness, learn now while in your youth that such results come about only to the proportion that you render service to your fellow men. We serve our God by serving His children. There is nothing sweeter in all the world than the spiritual blessings which come to us as a result of service — with the result of losing our lives for the Master's sake, with the assurance that someday we shall receive eternal life.

With these thoughts and purposes in mind, live in such a way that you are preparing to go on a mission when the call from the Lord comes. Save your money now in your own private missionary fund. Study the scriptures. Learn the Gospel doctrines and then you will be prepared to serve your fellow men — God's children — when the call comes.

My son, be honest in all your dealings. Never tell a lie. Build a character of high integrity. Be just and righteous in all your actions as you go through life. Joy and success will be your reward.

In due time you will desire to obey the greatest law that God has given to man — the law of celestial marriage. My son, while in your youth you are preparing by clean living for this great event. During your courtship days, court on a spiritual plane; and when you establish a home it will be built upon a rock foundation which will weather all storms.

To live and achieve in this world of complex problems, my son, you must have courage. Do away with any fears that may enter your heart. Fear is a destroyer of success and happiness. It confuses the mind. It undermines one's abilities. Peace of mind comes from a clear conscience and the conquest of fear. Therefore, remember and do at all times as the Lord commanded Joshua. "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:9)

And now, my son, I shall close this letter by making only one more important suggestion. As you travel through life, have faith in yourself. Have faith that you can accomplish the things which you righteously take into your heart to accomplish. Disappointments do come in life; but also great shall be your joy with the numerous accomplishments you will make through tenaciously retaining faith in your ability to achieve.

Affectionately,

Your Father.

BRUCE R. McCONKIE (Continued from page 320)

turned to civilian life with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He joined the American Legion and at present holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Field Artillery reserve.

For several months after the war he was a member of The Deseret News editorial staff, a position he still holds on a part-time basis. As a member of the General Authorities he has been Servicemen's co-ordinator for the Church, supervising the spiritual guidance programme for thousands of young men in the armed services.

Why Celebrate Christmas in December

by Anthony I. Bently



Editor's note: This article is taken from THE INSTRUCTOR, December, 1965. Reprinted by permission.

THERE is growing recognition in the world that the Saviour was born in the spring, rather than in December. Where and when, then did the winter observance begin?

Our word Christmas comes from "Christ's mass" and was first used in another sense by the historic church. By the fourth century A.D. the primitive apostolic church had been lost. Persecution and false doctrine from fellow Israelites, and later, more official opposition from the Roman Empire, had destroyed or forfeited the authorized leadership.

But, with the rise of champions like Constantine, Christianity (so-called) became victorious over its opposition. It was a costly, procrustean victory in which incompatible ideas and rites were blended together or syncretized into false doctrines, ordinances, and customs.

To justify new dogmas and practices, "plain and precious" truths were removed from the apostles' writings or modified. Thus, by the 11th century when the term Christmas had developed, the original, simple observance of the sacrament of the Lord's supper had become an elaborate, varied "Christ's mass." The second syllable (-mas) represented the dismissal by the priest of the congregation toward the end of the service.

Thus, Christmas really refers more to the remembrance (through the sacrament) of our covenant with Christ and His sacrifice for us, than to His birth.

In spite of the growing acknowledgment of a springtime nativity many persons still ask, "Isn't December 25 the real anniversary of the birth of Christ?"

Specific dates of events at the dawn of the Christian era have not come down to us, obviously. Early dates may have been neglected for a number of reasons. One is that the Gospels and other writings were prepared to meet specific problems. The authors stressed those things which would promote the kingdom of God in specific situations, rather than the facts and dates our hindsight demands.

We shall have to wait to learn, for instance, how much was made of the Saviour's birthday anniversaries, but we do know that early Christian gatherings, feasts and celebrations were grossly misunderstood and criticized — with some justification because of occasional, thoughtless, individual behaviour.

There is some indication that a purely religious feast was practiced in Egypt as early as 200 A.D. to celebrate the arrival of the Magi. After the triumph of Constantine in the first half of the fourth century, the church at Rome assigned December 25 as the date for this feast. The idea caught the zealous interest of the other bishops because it served to replace two festivals cherished by formerly-pagan members: the Roman

(continued on page 331)

The Spirit of Christmas

*The air is filled with sweet anticipation-
A thrilling unseen something that vibrates
The inner soul and keeps us ever bubbling
To greet each new-born day that brings us nearer
To that sweet time that we call Christmas Day.
What is this tremour born within the spirit
Of every man, though he be boy or sage,
And fills him up with every good intention
To do his utmost to redeem transgression
And make this world a purer happier place?
This is the spirit that attacks the hardest,
Enfolds him in a soft cocoon,
Pregnant with the joy and love of giving,
And whispers "Christmas" word of righteous living!*

by Hope Minné

Bruce R. McConkie



ELDER Bruce R. McConkie, a former Army security and intelligence officer, newspaper editorial writer and public official, is a member of the First Council of Seventy, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

He was appointed to this high missionary council in 1946 at the age of 31 years. Recently he has authored and published an encyclopedia type work on "Mormon Doctrine," covering more than 1,100 doctrinal subjects; and also edited three volumes of "Doctrines of Salvation," formed of the sermons and writings of President Joseph Fielding Smith of the Council of Twelve Apostles.

Elder McConkie was born July 29, 1915 at Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Oscar W. and Vivian Redd McConkie. His father was studying law at the University of Michigan at the time.

He attended the L.D.S. High School in Salt Lake City during its last two years of existence and engaged in various activities, such as debating, and as business manager of the "S" Book, school yearbook.

Called as a missionary to the Eastern States Mission, 1934-36, he served as president of the Seneca and Albany districts. During the last six weeks he toured the mission holding conferences with missionaries and members as a special representative of Mission President Don B. Colton.

While studying at the University of Utah he became a member of Delta Phi, returned missionary fraternity. He taught M-Men and Gleaner classes, genealogy and Gospel Doctrine classes and other Sunday School Classes; served as class instructor in two Seventy quorums, in the Sunday School superintendency, Stake M-Men presidency and in priesthood positions. He was a member of the 261st Quorum of Seventy, 1940-1941, and of the 340th Quorum of Seventy, 1945-1946, both in Bonneville Stake. He was released from the latter post to be ordained a member of the First Council of Seventy by the late President George Albert Smith on October 10, 1946.

He married Amelia Smith, daughter of President Joseph Fielding Smith, October 13, 1937. They have nine children.

He graduated from the University of Utah in 1937 with a bachelor of arts degree and in 1939 with a bachelor of laws degree. He was a member of the Utah State Bar and a practicing attorney; and assistant city attorney and city prosecutor, 1940-1942.

Elder McConkie next spent four years in the armed services, as a security and intelligence officer in the Ninth Service Command. He re-

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My Personal Witness that Jesus is the Christ

by Elder N. Eldon Tanner of The Council of the Twelve

Editor's note: This article was taken from THE INSTRUCTOR, August, 1963. Reprinted by permission.

ONE of the most precious truths a person can enjoy is to know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that He gave His life that all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. Prophets all down through the ages bore testimony that Jesus Christ would come to the earth and give His life for mankind. Jacob, as recorded in the Book of Mormon, foretold the coming of Christ to Jerusalem from whence his people came from and that He would be persecuted and crucified. Nephi also bore witness that Christ would come and that through His atonement all mankind might be saved.

We also have the many testimonies of those who walked and talked with Jesus while He was here upon the earth — the testimonies of James and John, and Matthew, whose lives demonstrated their testimonies. Some of the early disciples died for their testimonies, as did Joseph and Hyrum and others in these the latter days. We have the great testimony of Peter when Christ asked him, “. . . But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 16:15-17). According to tradition, Peter also gave his life as a testimony of Christ.

The bearing of testimony is common with the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today. President McKay, the members of the First Presidency, members of the Council of the Twelve, and all of the other General Authorities and the officers and many members of the Church, when speaking, bear solemn testimony that they know, as Peter did, that Christ is the Son of the living God.

The General Authorities, when they all meet together, have testimony bearing. The Council of the Twelve has its regular testimony meetings. The missionaries in the mission field together often; and, as they bear testimony to one another, the Spirit of the Lord attends them and strengthens them. As they go into the field to preach the Gospel, the greatest power and influence they can exert is the bearing of a solemn, humble testimony. It is more convincing than anything else they can do to convert the people.

Throughout the Church we have our regular fast day once a month when all members of the Church are invited to acknowledge the blessings of the Lord and to bear their testimonies. Also, the different auxiliary organizations—Relief Society, Primary, Sunday School, and MIA — have occasions during the year when members are permitted and encouraged to bear their testimonies.

Sometimes a person does not realize that he really has a testimony of the Gospel. On several occasions, I have had young men whom I was interviewing for a mission say, “I don’t really have a testimony of the Gospel. I can’t say that I know that God lives and that the Gospel is true.” Then, in answer to the questions which I asked them, they say, paraphrasing, “Yes, I would willingly give my life rather than deny the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am sure that I would not deny it.” And again, “Yes, I am prepared to leave my home with all its comforts, school, sports, girl friends, parents, and everything else to fill a mission.” When asked

why they want to go on a mission, their reply almost invariably is, "The reason I want to go is to teach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ." And again, "Yes, I am sure I want to go on a mission." Then I asked the question, "If you are prepared to make all these sacrifices to go and teach the Gospel to the people — prepared to give your life rather than to deny the Gospel and determined to share this message with the world — is not that a testimony of the Gospel?" They reply in the affirmative and express appreciation for this testimony of which they had not been conscious previously.

I have been asked many times, "How can one gain a testimony of Jesus Christ and His mission upon the earth?" My answer is: First, have a desire to know these things are true. Second, listen to and study the Gospel truths. Third, "... ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." (Moroni 10:4) Fourth, and this is very important, accept the teachings of Christ, the testimonies of others; and live the Gospel as taught by Jesus, and as revealed in these the latter days, and you will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that these things are true. President McKay said:

"Purity of thought, and a sincere heart, seeking the Saviour's guidance daily, will lead to a testimony of the truth of Christ's Gospel as sure and permanent as that which Peter possessed as he descended Mt Hermon after seeing the transfiguration of Christ and hearing the voice of God testifying to His divinity."

A testimony is a knowledge you have which no one can take away from you. You may not be able to explain it nor prove it, but you know it with every fibre of your being.

About two years ago I had the opportunity of meeting with seven district presidents in East Germany, behind the Iron Curtain, and the distinct privilege of listening to them bear their testimonies to one another. They bore testimony that they knew Jesus is the Christ, that the Gospel is true, that God lives, and that we have a Prophet at the head of our Church today. They expressed their appreciation of this knowledge and for the privilege they have of serving the Lord. They prayed for the Lord's blessings to attend them as they carry on His work. One of them said, and it was endorsed by all, "If man will keep the commandments of God, walking uprightly before Him, he has no need to fear." These wonderful, humble testimonies strengthened mine; and I thank the Lord that we have such faithful members with such strong testimonies representing the Church behind the Iron Curtain.

All through my life I have had an abiding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As a young man I gained a strong testimony that God lives and His son Jesus Christ gave His life for you and me, and that they appeared in person and talked to the boy Joseph Smith in answer to prayer. Also, many times throughout my life I have had my prayers answered, and by the power of the Priesthood and faith in the Lord I have administered to the sick and have seen them healed and raised from their beds of affliction. I am thankful to be able to call on the Lord for guidance and direction when faced with serious problems and grave decisions knowing that I can expect an answer.

During the past few months, I have had the wonderful privilege and blessing of sitting in meeting with, and partaking of the spirit of, our beloved President David O. McKay, who is God's chosen prophet through whom the Lord speaks to His people today, and to meet regularly with the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is most inspiring to hear them, as special witnesses, bear their powerful testimonies and tell of the marvelous experiences which they have had through the power of the Priesthood and blessings of the Lord.

In all humility I wish to bear my solemn testimony, as a special witness, that I know, in answer to prayer and by the power of the Holy

Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that through Him all mankind may be saved. It is my prayer that we may all live so as to gain this testimony and be worthy of His sacrifice and enjoy the blessing of Eternal Life.

COVER FEATURE



Is There a Santa Claus?

IN 1897, little Virginia O'Hanlon, daughter of a New York physician, wrote to the "Sun News."

Dear Editor:

"I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says if you see it in the "Sun" it's so. Please tell me the truth. is there a Santa Claus?"
Virginia O'Hanlon."

It was not an easy assignment, but here is the answer.

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think nothing can be comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! you might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but if they did not see Santa Claus coming down what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see Fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that is no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

And when ye shall receive these things

A LOT has been said about the importance of placing copies of the Book of Mormon in the homes of friends and relatives so we decided to see how effective the new programme is .

The suggestion that the members of the church introduce the Book of Mormon to their friends is nothing new but since the visit last year of Elder Mark E. Petersen greater emphasis has been put on it. The goal was set that every member should sell a Book of Mormon to a friend every month and tell him about the Church.

Like most new things it takes a little while to catch on, but it seems that some of the branches through the mission are beginning to catch the spirit of this wonderful missionary tool. In one of the branches the Branch Presidency made an assignment that each family should place 10 copies of the Book of Mormon for Christmas. It was suggested that the books be used as Christmas gifts, birthday presents and so on. The Branch President told us that it didn't take long before the entire branch had caught the vision of it all.

He said that they looked at the placing of the books as a calling from the Lord, and while they don't have the calling of a missionary, nevertheless they are able to share the Gospel in this way. Each book, he said, is placed with a prayer that the Lord will open the mind of the recipient to the truths contained therein, and that should he or she not read the book, that it will be passed on to someone who will.

The prophet Nephi made a statement that should encourage us to attempt to place this book of scripture which he helped write. He said, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (1 Nep. 3:7).

The saints all over the mission are finding that this is true; that all they have to do is try and the Lord will provide a way for them to leave a Book of Mormon with someone they feel should have one. One of the sisters had a friend to whom she wanted to present a Book of Mormon, but she was a little afraid to because of her friend's disposition. The next day while they were working together this sister's friend asked her about the Church, so she presented her with a Book of Mormon and explained a bit about it. Opportunities like this open up all the time, all we have to do is be ready for them.

These efforts are already being rewarded. We have record of several people who have joined the church because some of their friends thought enough of them to introduce them to the Church by giving them the Book of Mormon.

The reason why the Book of Mormon is such an effective missionary tool is because it contains a promise to anyone who will read it with an open mind, that if he will do so praying for wisdom to know of its truthfulness the Lord will give him that knowledge by the power of the Holy Ghost. (Moroni 10:4,5) We should always keep this in mind when we give these books to our friends and have them read those two verses in Moroni and ask them to put it to the test.

This is the season for giving; a time when we think of the great gift our Father in Heaven has given us by sending His Only Begotten Son to the earth so that we may have eternal life. The Book of Mormon has been given to us by God as a new witness for His Son. What better gift could we give anyone than a greater hope in our Saviour, Jesus Christ through the revealed word of God?

S.A. MISSION

HIGHLIGHTS

Cumorah's Message of You

Elder Bradley M. Clawson, Section Editor

DURBAN

Back to Adam

Reported by Beryl Soane

THE tall, dark-haired young lady with a quiet manner and a radiant smile who was surrounded by groups of admiring people was Nadine Cockburn. The reason for the great interest in her, was the announcement that she had traced one of her geneological lines right back to Adam, while the other line went back to an ancient Scottish King. Those members who had become a little disheartened with the work for their ancestors, took heart again. For Nadine, a member of only a few years, had begun her search a couple of years back in the Parish registers in the outlying districts of Durban. What advice had she for others? "Just keep on writing," she said.

Adult's faces beamed as much as the children's did when they presented the primary programme "The Miracle of a Teacher" to the members. It was an inspiring and enjoyable evening, perhaps the enthusiasm on the children's part being even greater because of the promise of a party the following week as a reward for their hard work.

The Relief Society fete was held at the end of the month after months of hard work and preparation. A new addition to the stalls was a "heel bar" where President Willson, clad in an apron, with shirt sleeves rolled up, repaired shoes. A yo-yo competition, judged by Elder Evans, was won by twelve-year old Eric Dingley, and the fancy dress competition was won by "van der Merwe," better known as Faith Winstanley.

PIETERMARITZBURG

Sends A Missionary

Reported by Sister Connie deBruin
THE highlight of the month of October was a film show in aid of the Building Fund. The Saints had a very enjoyable evening and a goodly sum was realized.

It has been a long time since Maritzburg had any young saints blessed, but October saw the two young sons of Brother and Sister Edmunds, Hilton and Shelton, blessed by the Elders. The Branch extends a hearty welcome to this lovely family.

A very wonderful feeling of

pride and gratitude is felt throughout the Branch at the moment. There will soon be a Maritzburg missionary in the field. Brother Kenneth Orth has the honour of being the first Elder to serve a mission from here. He is to report to the Mission Home in the first part of December. The Branch wish him God's richest blessings and a very fruitful mission.

Brother A. Larsson is the new MIA President, and his aim is to fill the Chapel on Fridays. The way things have been going, he'll achieve his aim in record time.

Feels Festive

Reported by Hope Minne

ALL organizations at Ramah 2 were in festive moods this month. On the first Sunday, the de Kocks threw a braai for the MIA, which proved to be a most delightful fireside at which we said au revoir to Laddie Gouws, who had gone to do his Army training. Good luck Laddie, we'll be glad when you get back again. Then the priesthood held a braai at Brother and Sister Cockrell's home, and this too was a friendly affair.

This was followed by District Conference, and we had a crowded, spiritual time. Following closely on the visit of Elder and Sister Cullimore, many of us seemed to be more spiritually uplifted. The theme was Sunday School and MIA. The Junior Sunday School choir sang

most sweetly in the morning, and the Youth Choir was really a treat to listen to in the afternoon.

After this, the Primary, pushing ahead again, gave the first Daddy-Daughter Date evening ever to be held at Ramah, (at least I think it was the first).

Relief Society held a Social and Sale of Work on October 29. The curry and rice supper was really "super" and there were lots of cakes and fancy goods.

It is nice to have back with us Brother George and Sister Joey Long and Family and Sister van Zyl, who accompanied them on their trip to the London Temple. They look great and they told us they had a wonderful time.

MOWBRAY

Hosts Visiting Saints

Reported by Sister Beatrice E. Smith

WHAT a month this has been for visitors to the Branch. First there were the Martin Koenings from the Transvaal. It was really good to have them here for a fairly long holiday. Then Brother Ernest Osman "buzzed-in" for a couple of meetings while he was here with "The Shadows." Brother Alamain Butt also made a brief visit. Brother and Sister Nel also spent their vacation at the Cape. Sister Theo Cherrett combined her visit with Primary business. The members in this part of the world are always glad to renew acquaintances with members from other Branches.

The M.I.A. have had a busy month. The M-Men and Gleaners arranged an outing to the theatre one evening. It is good to see a "live show" in these days of almost a monopoly by the cinema. They also arranged a progressive dinner which was good fun as well as good nourishment.

The Building Fund's super effort this month, was a film show at the home of the Rex Lowes. The feature film was "Jane Eyre". The show was out of doors and enjoyed by everyone.

The Relief Society Sisters gave a "Baby Shower" for Sister Diane Harford, at the home of Brother and Sister Dyason on October 21. The Sisters turned out in full force and the expected infant will be well-provided with blankets, booties, etc. The eats were very good as well.

More disappointment for the members of this Branch was the postponing of the opening of the new Chapel, which was to have taken place on October 26th. Unfortunately, a slight hitch with regard to seating occurred and the saints will have to wait a short while before enjoying the amenities of the new building. Well, good things do not spoil if patiently awaited. (Late flash: New Chapel opened on November 27th.

More news in next months issue.)

A very big welcome to Brother and Sister Hubert who have returned from a long holiday in Europe, the United States, and Canada.

The Young People's camp held during the long weekend was truly a jolly affair despite the weather conditions.

SPRINGS

Enjoys Work

ON October 22, the Branch Presidency held a special "Work and Braai" day at the chapel. This was for all members of the Branch, and the idea was to work on the chapel. It was a great success with 89 people present; the chapel was a hive of activity. The spirit was wonderful, and after putting in some good hours of hard work, it was lovely to relax afterwards and enjoy the braai. Everyone agreed it had certainly been worthwhile, and the Branch Presidency were thrilled with the response of the members.

Sunday evening, October 23, there was a large crowd at the M'Crystal residence. The adult class of Sunday School held a fireside with just about the whole branch present.

The Primary has been at work again. This time, Sister Chapman arranged a special outing for the children. On Friday, October 28, 42 excited youngsters and 8 adults attended the circus. The children were very well behaved, and according to reports, had a marvellous time.

Yet another wedding was held this month on October 29. Sister Yvonne Atkins and Brother Val van Niekerk were married by President Kenneth Powrie. We wish this young couple lots of happiness for the future.

Congratulations to Brother Edwin Phillips who celebrated his 8th birthday, and was also baptized and confirmed a member of the Church. Congratulations also go to Brother Eroid Jubber who has been called to serve as the leader of the returned missionaries of the Transvaal District.

EAST RAND

Primary Puts on a Programme

Reported by Lucy Carr

AT a Primary programme held recently, the little children once more showed how well they can sing. The officers and teachers also touched the hearts of those present with the two beautiful songs; "The Teachers Prayer" and "Hold Thou My Hand."

The hall, very appropriately decorated with roadsigns, was the setting for the dance of the month. As the theme was "Drivers Dance," "filling stations" were set up where "cars" low on "fuel" could "fill up" with delicious punch. The "load-

ing zone" provided eats appetizing enough to make any "vehicle load up" again. Congratulations to the "traffic officers" who organized this successful "drive".

The Branch Presidency is now functioning in full strength again since Brother F. B. Carr has been sustained as Branch Clerk.

Congratulations too to Brother Errol Dobbins on being baptized, and many hearts also rejoiced when Raymond Adendorff and Sandra Evans were baptized on their eighth birthdays.

RAMAH FIRST

Sunday School Presents South Pacific

Reported by Olive H. Dewsnup

THIS month the Sunday School under the direction of Brother Norman Calteaux presented a film show at which they showed "South Pacific."

Because of the large number that attended, it was both a financial and a social success.

Brother Calteaux has recently had an operation on his foot and is now recuperating in his home. We hope he will soon be fit again.

We extend a warm welcome to the Roets family who were baptized the first part of October. We pray that the Lord will bless them.

KRUGERSDORP

Fellowship Six New Members

Reported by Sheila Bibb

THERE were 6 new members added to the Krugersdorp Branch when the Kahn Family were baptized recently.

We are happy to see Sister Killian back with us again after a brief stay in the hospital. We are sorry to hear that Brother Davey had to spend some time in the hospital so soon after his return from Zambia. We are always so glad to see old members return.

Our Branch goal of spreading the

Gospel by giving 200 copies of The Book of Mormon as gifts is doing well. 120 have already been placed among friends and relatives.

Hearty congratulations to Julius and Evette Swanepoel whose baby daughter arrived on October 25th. October seems to be the Swanepoel month for birthdays. Proud Grandfather Jan and Aunt Yvonne also celebrated their birthdays this month.

WELKOM

Celebrates Halloween

Reported by Gladys S. Wilford

THE Branch had a very enjoyable Halloween celebration on Saturday evening, October 29. It started with a hobbies fair and everybody was pleasantly surprised at the number of talented people that suddenly appeared. The aspirant "Renoirs" were Sisters Liz and Jean Platt, Sisters Ruth Fripp, and Ruth Driscoll, and Brothers Genever and Platt. Naomi Beldon had some lovely crochet work on display. On display was a miniature Chipperfield Circus, a farmyard, knitted garments, needlework, fudgemaking, rocks, canework, stamp collections, foamrubber articles, and President Spear showed some slides.

After the hobbies fair the evening took the form of a talent contest. There was a junior and a senior section. The junior section was won by Paul and Shirley Driscoll who delighted everyone with their singing. The senior section was won by David Gilbert, the nephew of Brother Gordon Gilbert. He did a comical rendering of a clown which, of course, all the children enjoyed very much. After the talent contest the Branch enjoyed themselves with the Halloween Dance. The whole evening was a tremendous success.

BLOEMFONTEIN

Holds Branch Conference

Reported by Lida van der Leek

THE high light of the month was a most enjoyable conference. It is always an uplifting spiritual time for any branch, but this branch really seems to grow in faith after a conference.

We had the pleasure of having

members from Johannesburg, Welkom, and Kimberley attending with us. Brother and Sister Milne, who represented the MIA, and Brother and Sister Donly who represented the Sunday School, were there as well. We enjoyed having all our

Brothers and Sisters with us, and we hope they enjoyed being among us.

The M.I.A. members went over to Welkom to attend a dance held

there. They all enjoyed mixing with the young members of that branch. The MIA wishes to express their thanks to those members who organized the dance, and who put them up.

GWELO

Welcomes a New Addition

Reported by Brenda Alderson

THIS month we send our congratulations to the Newbolds of Que Que on the safe arrival of our newest member — Patricia Anne. Patricia was born on October 4.

Sister J. S. Budd has undergone a major operation in Bulawayo this month. She is home again now, and we pray that she will soon be restored to her full health and strength.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Brother Ernie Fourie this month. His work has taken him to far off Camative, and he won't be seeing him again until Christmas.

SALISBURY

Mia-Maids Sponsor a Braai

Reported by Minnie Swalwell

THIS month had a wonderful start. On October 1, we saw three enter the waters of baptism. They were Brother Miles Steven Hodgkiss, Brother Beresford Anthony Ronayne Bragg and his wife Sister Pamela Bragg. We are truly happy to welcome these wonderful families.

Our M.I.A.-Maids gave everyone a wonderful surprise on October 7, by arranging a camp fire and braai-veils in the chapel grounds. They are to be complimented on their cooking of steaks and boerewors for all of us. They also served crisp fresh bread and butter and cool drinks. This was followed by community singing accompanied by a guitar.

The Salisbury Branch is really making great strides forward this year with its MIA. We held our first real Gold and Green Ball on October 22, 1966. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Brother Jack Stevens, our MIA President, we formed a committee some three months ago and started planning for the ball.

The food, one of the most important aspects of the ball, was under the direction of Sister Julia Shaw. With her helpers she produced a magnificent cold buffet which was beautifully decorated and

laid out. It was with obvious regret that the servers finally started to give out the food.

The decorations in the hall itself were well done and in keeping with our victorian theme. We were fortunate to get the band that normally plays at the Rhodesian Ballroom Championships, with the result that we enjoyed some excellent ballroom dancing.

In the end we had nearly 80 people at the ball and with excellent music, decorations, good food, and the pretty young girls in their long evening dresses the whole evening went along at a terrific pace. We had nearly 30 friends with us that night, all of whom were tremendously impressed with the Salisbury Mormons.

Primary held a cake and sweet stall on Saturday morning, October 29, and were successful in raising the necessary amount to send each child from the primary to see the pantomime in December, plus the added interest of ice-cream and sweets. This is something they look forward to and enjoy every year. The older members even helped in their small way to raise the funds for this project.

Relief Society had a "social science — bring-a-friend" evening, which was thoroughly enjoyed and

well attended. We again took the opportunity to show the visitors around our building.

Our Congratulations to Brother and Sister Jack Stevens on the arrival of their new son.

COPPERBELT

Loses Members

Reported by Arlene Oosthuizen

OUR branch membership continues to grow smaller. In the first week in October we bade farewell to Brother and Sister Broad and their four children when they left Zambia to return to their home in England. Elder Dan Meyer also left us on the completion of his Mission, and we pray for his safe return to his home and family.

Branch Conference was held on Sunday, October 23. It was lovely to have President and Sister Snow with us once again. At times we feel cut off from the rest of the South African Mission, but their visits to Zambia help us to realise that we are not forgotten.

It is with pride that we announce that our branch claims to have the youngest Branch Organist in the South African Mission, young Phillip Munch Jr., just eleven years old. We pray that our Heavenly Father will bless him in this important and wonderful calling and that his music will ever continue to be a delight to all his listeners.

BULAWAYO

Booming Again

Reported by Dawn Owen

WE are glad to report that after a run of Sunday School, Priesthood and the Sacrament services being held together, owing to petrol rationing, we have now managed to return to normal services.

MIA arranged a trip to the cinema to see the film "The Bible," which was well attended by the younger group. A beetle drive, arranged by the Relief Society in aid of the building funds, was greatly enjoyed and was a great success as well.

Activities had to be curtailed owing

to an impressive sick list, which left a sadly depleted Branch. Brother Hervert and his four little saints all went down with the mumps at the same time, as well as their nanny. Two of our young saints were also casualties; 5 year old Paul Kersey with mumps and Tommy Pomeroy in isolation with jaundice. We are glad, however, to report that the saints are returning slowly but surely.

We regret to report that Sister Taylor, who has been in the hospital for the last nine months, is still confined there. Our prayers and thoughts are with her constantly.

GERMISTON

Sponsors a Braai and a Film Show

Reported by Sister E. Butt

ON October 29, we held a Braai and film show, in aid of our Christmas Tree. All who attended had an enjoyable evening.

We wish to welcome the Grove Family, originally from Port Elizabeth. However they have come to us from Durban. We hope they're going to be very happy in our Branch.

EAST LONDON

Organizes a Ping-Pong League

Reported by Naomi Raubenheimer

BROTHER Fred Harington had decided to organize a Church league a wonderful idea when he during the table tennis off-season,

and each Monday night has seen the Cultural Hall filled with eager players playing for various teams. On Monday, October 31st, the "championships" were held and a good entry was received. There were even trophies to be won. All enjoyed themselves immensely, even if they were somewhat exhausted by the end of the evening. The following are the Branch Table Tennis Champions: Ladies Singles — Ann Corrigan; Men's Singles — Denis Raubenheimer; Ladies Doubles — Jenny Cotterill and Elizabeth Human; Men's Doubles — Denis Raubenheimer and Billy van Heerden Jr.; Mixed Doubles — Allen and Una van Vuuren.

Two more successful cake sales have been held since last reporting, when R50 was raised for the Building Fund. All the Sisters are now working flat out for the Relief Society Bazaar to be held on the 2nd of December, under the able leadership of Sister Theresa Trollip. Relief Society has grown somewhat over the last months and it is wonderful to see more Sisters attending regular meetings. A real spirit of love and friendship exists among the sisters in the Branch.

At an MIA fireside held on October 16th, a very good film of "A Century of Mormonism in South Africa" was shown and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

TO ALL BRANCH PRESIDENTS

For Our Servicemen

A LOT of the young men in the Mission are arriving at the age where they are asked to serve their country in the Armed Forces. It's a wonderful opportunity for these young men to gain the experience of being on their own to some extent. It's also a wonderful opportunity to do some missionary work among those they serve with.

The Church encourages the young men of the Church throughout the world to serve their country. To help them remain close to the Church while they are away the Church has put a serviceman's kit together which includes a pocket sized Book of Mormon and a pocket sized book entitled **Principles of the Gospel**.

In the past these have been furnished by the Church. However it will now be necessary for you to purchase them for the servicemen from your branch. These kits should be ordered through Brother Texas Smith, who is in charge of the servicemen throughout the Mission, at Circle Court, Claredon Place, Hillbrow, Johannesburg. When you order please include the serviceman's full name and military address including his regimental number.

WHY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS . . . (Continued from page 318)

feast of the Sun-god (natalis soli invicti) and the more generally accepted Saturnalia, or observance of the winter solstice when the seasonal change gives promise of warmth and renewed growth. Representing so many cultural elements in the Roman Empire, especially after it included the winter solstice lore of the northern Europeans, this holiday easily became the most popular for everyone in the Empire.

In spite of this, the Reformation created a suppression of the mass in much of Europe. The Pilgrims carried a dislike for it to America, but in the 19th century the wave of Irish and German immigration caused "enthusiasm for the feast . . . to spread throughout the country. Objections were swept aside and the old traditions revived."

Meanwhile, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints accepted a revelation given in 1830 to Joseph Smith that the real anniversary of Jesus Christ was April 6. (Doctrine and Covenants 20:1)

Bible scholars are slowly accepting the new knowledge that Jesus
(continued on page 332)

FROM OUR FILES

BLESSINGS

CARLETONVILLE

EKSTEEN, Leonora Jean blessed October 2, 1966.

DURBAN

WALLANDER, Gavin Owen blessed November 8, 1966.

KLERKSDORP

BAISE, Paul Anthony blessed October 2, 1966.

CRUSE, André blessed May, 1, 1966.

CRUSE, Debra Ann blessed May 1, 1966.

DETTMANN, Erwin blessed October 2, 1966.

MOWBRAY

WIFFEN, Leon Hyrum blessed November 6, 1966.

PIETERMARITZBURG

EDMUNDS, Hylton Trower blessed October 23, 1966.

EDMUNDS, Shelton Trower blessed October 23, 1966.

PRETORIA

DE BEER, David Johannes blessed November 6, 1966.

DE BEER, Willem Adriaan blessed November 6, 1966.

HERR, Susan blessed November 13, 1966.

BAPTISMS

BLOEMFONTEIN

DAUBNEY, Patricia Wendy baptized November 5, 1966.

KLERKSDORP

CRUSE, Juliana Cornelia baptized April 30, 1966.

CRUSE, Ronald Desmond baptized April 30, 1966.

DETTMANN, Alida Susanna baptized August 3, 1966.

HULSCHER, Antionette Akee baptized August 3, 1966.

HULSCHER, Helena Cathrina baptized August 3, 1966.

ZOTTER, Mary Elizabeth baptized April 16, 1966.

KRUGERSDORP

KAHN, Anita baptized October 8, 1966.

KAHN, Hendrika Andriessina baptized

October 8, 1966.

KAHN, Lorraine Jean baptized October 8, 1966.

KAHN, Phyllis baptized October 8, 1966.

KAHN, Raymond Robert baptized October 8, 1966.

KAHN, Robert Raymond baptized October 8, 1966.

PIETERMARITZBURG

EDMUNDS, Lance Hawkins baptized August 20, 1966.

EDMUNDS, Yvonne baptized August 20, 1966.

PRETORIA

DE BEER, David Johannes baptized November 5, 1966.

VEREENIGING

ROBERTS, Clarice Anne baptized August 29, 1966.

ORDINATIONS

KRUGERSDORP

OOSTHUIZEN, Robert Stephen Gordon ordained a Teacher October 23, 1966.

PRETORIA

ALCOCK, Michael Leslie ordained a Priest October 23, 1966.

MAXWELL, Alexander ordained a Priest October 23, 1966.

SMOOK, Willem Frederik ordained a

Priest October 23, 1966.

VAN DEVENTER, Esaias ordained a Teacher October 23, 1966.

SPRINGS

BOTHA, Cornelius Paulus Johannes ordained a Priest September 18, 1966.

JUBBER, Reuben Anthony ordained a Deacon September 11, 1966.

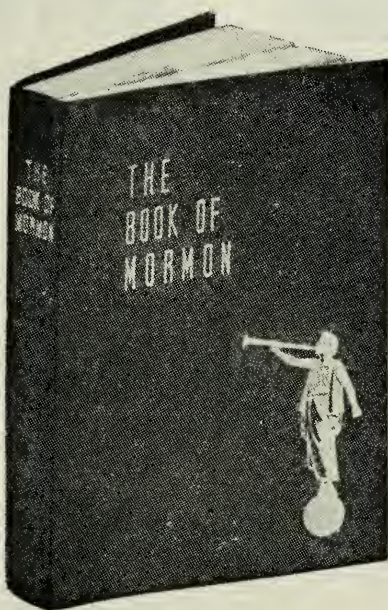
WHY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS . . . (Continued from page 331)

really was born in the spring, concurrent with what we now call the Easter season. This is the season when shepherds, even today, put their little flocks together into grazing herds and take turns "keeping watch over their flocks by night." His death came during the same season and soon after His birthday, according to 3 Nephi 8:5.

Why do Latter-day Saints, now that we know about the April 6 date, continue to celebrate Christmas in December? We see no harm, and much possible good, in honoring our Master twice a year. By trying to cultivate the real spirit of Jesus on Christmas and by celebrating the double anniversary of His springtime nativity and the organization of His Latter-day Church on April 6, a double help and blessing is ours.

COMPARATIVE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

	Enrolled	Average Attendance	Attendance Percentage	No. of Magazines	Sick Visits	Compassionate Service	Families in Branch	No. of Visits
Bellville	10	13	130%	7	24	64½ hrs.	21	21
Bloemfontein	14	8	57%	9	8	3 hrs.	14	15
Bulawayo	15	9	60%	9	36	—	—	—
Carletonville	5	5	100%	21	7	1 hrs.	6	8
Copperbelt	9	3	33%	6	—	—	9	10
Durban	42	28	66%	73	—	—	41	72
East London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Rand	9	7	87%	14	—	—	—	52
Germiston	21	9	43%	8	—	—	—	—
Gwelo	7	5	77%	1	4	12 days	—	—
Klerksdorp	12	5	62%	8	—	—	11	16
Krugerdsorp	22	19	81%	14	17	—	38	44
Mowbray	42	33	78%	—	24	175 hrs.	87	87
Pietermaritzburg	18	7	38%	13	—	—	—	—
Port Elizabeth	12	10	85%	4	15	16 days	—	—
Pretoria	14	19	46%	19	16	—	36	125
Ramah I	38	18	47%	—	7	—	14	50
Ramah II	23	12	52%	21	—	—	26	205
Salisbury	28	14	50%	24	16	3 hrs.	28	31
Springs	20	16	80%	25	17	—	48	63
Vereeniging	6	5	83%	7	6	9 days	11	28
Welkom	12	5	41%	7	—	—	19	20
Kimberley	8	6	75%	8	6	6	9	24



THE
PERFECT
PRESENT
FOR
THOSE
WHO
WANT
EVERYTHING

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

*Leaving
for*

Home



ELDER WILLIAM A. BENINCOSA,
Clearfield, Utah



ELDER SIGMUND C. GELDENHUYS,
Cape Town



ELDER DEVON S. PORTER,
Cedar City, Utah



ELDER GLEN R. RICHARDSON,
Ogden, Utah



ELDER PAUL D. VAN UITERT,
Salt Lake City, Utah

ARRIVALS

ELDER DOUGLAS BROOK HARKER arrived December 7, 1966, from Magrath, Alberta, Canada.

ELDER RULON DELMONTE THOMSON arrived December 7, 1966, from Magrath, Alberta, Canada.

ELDER DAVID BENNITT BLY arrived December 7, from Magrath, Alberta, Canada.

ELDER BERNARD RAYMOND EASTERBROOK arrived December 7, 1966 from Ridgeville, Ontario.

ELDER KENNETH L. ORTH arrived December 6, 1966, from Pietermaritzburg, Natal

TRANSFERS

ELDER GLEN, M. STODDART, transferred from Southern Suburbs, to the Mission Home District, October 25, 1966.

ELDER HOWARD W. CHENEY, transferred from Bulawayo to the Mission Home District, November 7, 1966.

ELDER ROBERT K. ANGER, transferred from Salisbury to Brakpan, Tvl., November 7, 1966.

ELDER STEPHEN PRICE, transferred from Bellville, Cape to Germiston, November 7, 1966.

ELDER PAUL K. EVANS, transferred from Durban to Krugersdorp as District Leader of the West Rand District, November 7, 1966.

ELDER KENNETH PATTERSON, transferred from Germiston to Carletonville, November 6, 1966.

ELDER ROBERT SHUPE, assigned to work in Pretoria, November 4, 1966.

ELDER MICHAEL BARNES, transferred from Carletonville to Durban, November 7, 1966.

ELDER THOMAS M. THACKERAY, assigned to work in Bellville, Cape, November 3, 1966.

ELDER JAMES W. THOMAS, transferred from Roodepoort, Tvl., to Klerksdorp, November 25, 1966.

Chapels and Meeting Places

Cape

- MOWBRAY BRANCH**
Main Road, Mowbray.
Phone 6-4459 or 69-8718.
- BELLVILLE BRANCH**
Masonic Hall, Talent Street,
Parow.
- EAST LONDON BRANCH**
Chapel, Belgravia Crescent,
East London.
- PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH**
Chapel, 40 Prospect Road,
Walmer, Port Elizabeth.
- KIMBERLEY BRANCH**
4 Harvey Street, Rhodesdene,
Kimberley.

Natal

- DURBAN BRANCH**
Chapel, 144 Silverton Road,
Durban.
- PIETERMARITZBURG BRANCH**
Chapel, 321 Alexander Road,
Pietermaritzburg.

Orange Free State

- BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH**
Chapel, end of Voortrekker Road,
Bloemfontein.
Phone 8-0702.
- WELKOM BRANCH**
Chapel, Cor. Othello Road &
Peter Crescent, St Helena.

Transvaal

- CARLETONVILLE BRANCH**
Chapel, No. 2 Bluebell St.
Carletonville.
- EAST RAND BRANCH**
Bountiful Chapel, 115 Woburn
Ave. Opp. Town Hall, Benoni.
Phone 54-8651.

- KLERKSDORP BRANCH**
Chapel, No. 6 Sport Street,
Flamwood, Klerksdorp.
- KRUGERSDORP BRANCH**
Ensign Chapel,
62 Paul Kruger Drive,
Monument Township,
Krugersdorp.
Phone 664-4164.
- PRETORIA BRANCH**
Deseret Chapel, 110 Devenish
Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria.
Phone 4-6932.
- PRIMROSE BRANCH**
Masonic Hall, Meyer Street,
Germiston.
- RAMAH FIRST & SECOND
BRANCHES**
Ramah Chapel, 1 Hunter Street,
Highlands, Johannesburg.
Phone 24-2525 or 24-3669.
- SPRINGS BRANCH**
Chapel, 23 Eleventh Street,
Springs.
Phone 56-7191.
- VEREENIGING BRANCH**
Chapel, 42 Grey Avenue,
Vereeniging.
Phone 642-1390.

Rhodesia

- BULAWAYO BRANCH**
Chapel, Matopas Road,
Bulawayo.
- SALISBURY BRANCH**
Chapel, 27A Enterprise Road,
Highlands, Salisbury.
- GWelo BRANCH**
6 Gordon Crescent, Athlone.
Gwelo.

Zambia

- COPPERBELT BRANCH**
Chapel, Westminster Drive,
Kitwe, Zambia.
- LUSAKA BRANCH**
18 Independence Avenue,
Lusaka, Zambia,

Joy to the world, the Lord will come,
And earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
And saints and angels sing,
And saints and angels sing,
And saints, and saints and angels sing.

Rejoice! rejoice! when Jesus reigns,
And saints their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy:
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more will sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He'll come and make the blessings flow
Far as the curse was found.
Far as the curse was found,
Far as, far as the curse was found.